

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A data control method includes the steps of: A)
at least one of the following steps: A-1) embedding
5 prohibition information in data, wherein copying of the
data is to be prohibited; and A-2) embedding the
prohibition information and N pieces of permission
information in the data (N is a natural number), wherein
the copying of the data is to be permitted N times; and
10 B) detecting the prohibition and/or permission informa-
tion prior to the copying of the data. In the case where
the permission information is detected from the data
prior to the copying of the data, at least one of the N
pieces of permission information in the data is invali-
15 dated, and then the copying of the data is permitted. In
the case where the permission information is not detected
from the data, and the prohibition information is detect-
ed from the data prior to the copying of the data, the
copying of the data is prohibited.